**Anna Shafajinskaia**

is one of the world's foremost dramatic sopranos. Recent highlights include the title role of ***IOLANTA*** for the Louisville Orchestra and Kentucky Opera conducted by Jorge Mester; Britten ***War Requiem*** in Porto; Maddalena de Coigny ***ANDREA CHENIER*** at Teatro Real in Madrid and the title role in ***TURANDOT*** for Theater Bremen, the National Centre for the Performing Arts in China and at the opening of the Guangzho Opera House in China with Lorin Maazel. Highlights this season include her role debut as Santuzza ***CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA*** for New Zealand Opera; her role debut in the title role of ***LADY MACBETH OF MTSENSK*** in her Israeli Opera debut and a return to Welsh National Opera in the title role of ***TURANDOT***. Future plans include Odabella ***ATTILA*** in her debut at Seattle Opera and Morgana ***THE LOVE OF THREE ORANGES*** for De Nederlandse Opera.

Other triumphs have included the title role in ***LA GIOCONDA*** for the Deutsche Oper Berlin, in Liège and Nice; Lisa ***PIQUE DAME*** for Finnish National Opera; to the title role in ***TOSCA*** for Den Norske Opera. She also made her role debut as Fata Morgana ***L'AMOUR DES TROIS ORANGES*** for the Nederlandse Opera and her Spanish debut as ***TURANDOT***for the Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona. She made her role debut as Leonora ***LA FORZA DEL DESTINO*** at the Deutsche Oper Berlin (a role she subsequently sang at the National Theatre in Tokyo) and sang further performances of Turandot for the Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago. She made her role debut as Abigaille ***NABUCCO*** for Dallas Opera and sung Maddalena ***ANDREA CHENIER*** in Barcelona, as well as include Turandot in Adelaide, South Australia and the title role ***TOSCA***for New York City Opera.

Born in the Ukraine, she later moved to Canada taking Canadian nationality. After winning the Luciano Pavarotti International Competition, she came to the attention of an international public and was invited to sing the title role in ***TOSCA*** opposite Luciano Pavarotti (conducted by Marco Armiliato). She has gone on to sing this role in theatres throughout the world, including the Bastille in Paris (conducted by Marcello Viotti), New York City Opera (where she was awarded the Richard Gold Debut Award for her interpretations of both ***TOSCA*** and ***TURANDOT***), the Finnish National Opera and Den Norske Oper.

Her debut as ***AIDA*** for Opera Ontario, conducted by Daniel Lipton, was followed by her debut as Madeleine de Coigny ***ANDREA CHENIER*** for Den Norske Opera. Her subsequent debut as ***TURANDOT*** for Welsh National Opera secured her reputation as one of the foremost exponents of this role, with subsequent appearances including Covent Garden (conducted by Marco Armiliato), Liège for Opéra Wallonie, Dallas, The Bolshoi in Moscow, St Petersburg in the Francesco Zambello production (conducted by Alexander Vedernikov), San Diego, Florida and The Netherlands Opera with the new Act III ending by Luciano Berio, conducted by Riccardo Chailly. Her appearances in Italy have included the Teatro Comunale di Firenze as Lady Macbeth ***MACBETH***, conducted by Julia Jones, and Palermo conducted by Gabriele Ferro. Other international highlights have included her debut in the role of Lisa ***PIQUE DAME*** in Dallas.

Her concert highlights include Britten ***War Requiem*** for the Porto 2001 Festival and Gala concerts with the Odense Symphony Orchestra in South Africa and at Opéra de Montréal. She also appeared in Verdi ***Messa da Requiem*** in Italy, and she sang the role of Fiora ***L'AMORE DEI TRE RE*** at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.